

Labour Force, February 2019

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 21 March 2019, 10:30 am AEST.

Note: As noted by the ABS, trend estimates provide the best measure of state level labour market conditions.

Key data (trend)

Employment:	Queensland,	↑ 4,100	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 20,600	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↓ 3,000	(5.7%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 1,800	(5.0%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 1,100	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 22,400	(0.2%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	↓ 3,500	(8.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 2,900	(8.1%)

Main findings – Trend estimates

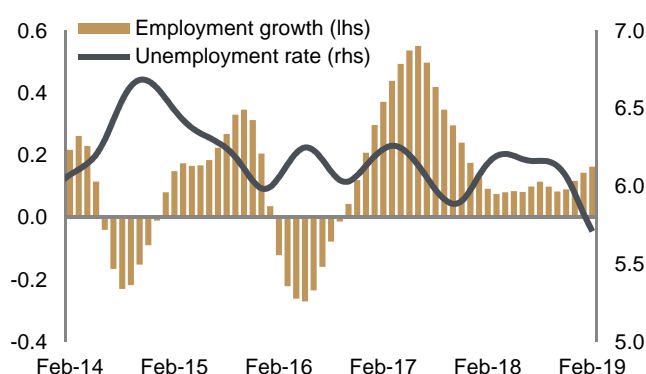
Trend employment in Queensland rose marginally in February 2019, up 0.2% (or 4,100 persons), driven mainly by a rise in full-time employment (up 4,000 persons) in the month.

Over the year to February 2019, trend employment in Queensland was 1.2% (or 30,700 persons) higher, with a rise in both full-time employment (up 29,000 persons) and part-time employment (up 1,700 persons). This recent moderate employment growth rate is below the growth rate in civilian population 15+ of 1.9% over the year, although it follows a period of very strong growth in 2017.

Consistent with moderate employment growth, Queensland's trend participation rate has edged lower over the past year, down 0.8 percentage point to be 65.2% in February. This follows a period when the participation rate rose 1.9 percentage points from a low of 64.1% in October 2016 to 66.0% in December 2017.

The moderation in the participation rate over past year has meant Queensland's trend unemployment rate has trended lower recently, to be 5.7% in February 2019, down from a downwardly revised 5.8% in January, and 0.4 percentage point lower than a year ago (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Employment growth and unemployment rate, Queensland (trend, monthly, %)



Nationally, trend employment rose by 20,600 persons (up 0.2%) in February, to be 2.3% higher over the year. New South Wales (up 125,600), Victoria (up 123,400) and Queensland (up 30,700) were the largest contributors to the

290,800 persons gain in national employment over the past year (Table 2). The national trend unemployment rate was 5.0% in February 2019, unchanged from a downwardly revised rate in January, but 0.5 percentage point lower over the year.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 6,500 persons in February, driven by an increase in part-time employment (up 10,900 persons). Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 0.8% (or 20,500 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate fell from 6.1% in January to 5.4% in February, to be 0.8 percentage point lower over the year. Queensland's sa participation rate fell 0.4 percentage point to 65.0% in February. Nationally, sa employment rose marginally (up 4,600 persons) in the month, while the sa unemployment rate was 4.9%.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, February 2019

	QUEENSLAND				AUSTRALIA					
	Feb-19 000s	Monthly change 000s	Yearly change %	Feb-19 000s	Monthly change 000s	Yearly change %	Feb-19 000s	Yearly change %		
Trend										
Employed	2,501.8	4.1	0.2	30.7	1.2	12,762.8	20.6	0.2	290.8	2.3
Full-time	1,731.9	4.0	0.2	29.0	1.7	8,743.4	12.3	0.1	219.1	2.6
Part-time	769.9	0.1	0.0	1.7	0.2	4,019.3	8.2	0.2	71.6	1.8
Unemployed	151.5	-3.0	-1.9	-10.4	-6.4	673.1	1.8	0.3	-53.2	-7.3
Underemployed	223.6	-3.5	-1.5	-12.9	-5.5	1,092.9	-2.9	-0.3	-33.0	-2.9
Labour force	2,653.3	1.1	0.0	20.3	0.8	13,435.8	22.4	0.2	237.5	1.8
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,498.3	6.5	0.3	20.5	0.8	12,763.4	4.6	0.0	284.1	2.3
Full-time	1,728.0	-4.4	-0.3	16.6	1.0	8,742.7	-7.3	-0.1	210.0	2.5
Part-time	770.3	10.9	1.4	3.9	0.5	4,020.7	11.9	0.3	74.0	1.9
Unemployed	144.0	-16.8	-10.4	-21.0	-12.7	664.3	-11.7	-1.7	-69.4	-9.5
Underemployed	212.1	-12.4	-5.5	-20.7	-8.9	1,084.2	-8.0	-0.7	-40.9	-3.6
Labour force	2,642.3	-10.4	-0.4	-0.6	0.0	13,427.7	-7.1	-0.1	214.7	1.6
Trend	Feb-19	Jan-19	Feb-18			Feb-19	Jan-19	Feb-18		
Unemployment rate	5.7	5.8	6.1			5.0	5.0	5.5		
Underemployment rate	8.4	8.6	9.0			8.1	8.2	8.5		
Participation rate	65.2	65.4	66.0			65.6	65.6	65.6		
Seas. Adjusted										
Unemployment rate	5.4	6.1	6.2			4.9	5.0	5.6		
Underemployment rate	8.0	8.5	8.8			8.1	8.1	8.5		
Participation rate	65.0	65.4	66.3			65.6	65.7	65.7		

Table 2: Interstate comparison, February 2019

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,100	8,800	8,300	-200	-1,600	0	20,600
% change on a year ago	1.2	3.2	3.8	0.6	0.2	-0.4	2.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	30,700	125,600	123,400	4,900	2,500	-1,100	290,800
Unemployment rate (trend)							
February-19	5.7	4.2	4.6	5.9	6.2	6.3	5.0
January-19	5.8	4.2	4.6	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.0
February-18	6.1	4.9	5.5	5.9	6.2	6.0	5.5
Participation rate (trend)							
February-19	65.2	65.1	66.1	62.7	68.0	60.4	65.6
January-19	65.4	65.1	66.0	62.6	68.2	60.4	65.6
February-18	66.0	64.6	65.7	62.8	68.4	61.3	65.6
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	6,500	-5,800	5,700	3,800	2,800	1,900	4,600
% change on a year ago	0.8	3.3	4.2	0.0	0.6	0.2	2.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	20,500	128,900	136,700	-100	7,700	400	284,100
Unemployment rate (sa)							
February-19	5.4	4.3	4.8	5.7	5.9	6.5	4.9
January-19	6.1	3.9	4.6	6.3	6.9	7.0	5.0
February-18	6.2	4.8	5.6	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.6
Participation rate (sa)							
February-19	65.0	65.2	66.1	62.4	67.8	60.7	65.6
January-19	65.4	65.2	66.0	62.6	68.4	60.7	65.7
February-18	66.3	64.6	65.5	63.3	68.2	61.0	65.7